

military presence in Cyprus and the ongoing mystery of the fate of those who have disappeared. The occupation has gone on for far too long. We must strive for reunification, and we must achieve it soon, so that all Cypriots can benefit from Cyprus's new stature on the world stage.

Cyprus is well on its way to full EU membership—by this time next year it will be official. And, while Turkish Cypriot leader Denktash has continued to throw up roadblocks in front of a formal settlement, it seems the people of Cyprus are fed up with living on a divided island. We have been inspired by the stories of peace and kindness that have emerged from the opening of the borders—an opening that has taken place without the violence Mr. Denktash so stridently predicted. We all know that while leaders may make peace agreements, people make peace—and that is what we have witnessed in Cyprus.

As Ranking Democrat on the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, it has been an honor to fight to achieve a substantial earmark for Cyprus each year. This assistance demonstrates our commitment to the people of Cyprus and our recognition of their struggle. These funds support measures aimed at reunifying the island and reducing tensions and promoting peace between the people of Cyprus. I believe this earmark sends a strong signal to the people of Cyprus that the United States is unflinchingly committed to realizing the goal of a reunified Cyprus. As the appropriations process continues, I will work to ensure the earmark once again reaches its traditional level of \$15 million.

We must work together to keep up the pressure on Turkey to end its occupation of Cyprus and to allow the Cypriot people to live in peace and freedom. This year, more than ever, we must not let the opportunity for a resolution to this conflict pass.

IN HONOR OF THE 41ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate Trinidad on the forty-first anniversary of her Independence and the 169th anniversary of emancipation in Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean.

Trinidad and Tobago and the U.S. have long enjoyed a prosperous relationship that has hinged upon interests in investment, trade, and regional security. Often noted for holding one of the largest and most elaborate Carnival celebrations in the world, there is much to know about how this small island nation evolved and has come to be such a great friend to our nation.

Trinidad was settled by the Spanish a century after Columbus landed there. The original inhabitants—Arawak and Carib Indians—were largely wiped out by the Spanish colonizers, and the survivors were gradually assimilated. Although it attracted French, free Black, and other non-Spanish settlers, Trinidad remained under Spanish rule until the British captured it in 1797. During the colonial period, Trinidad's economy relied on large sugar and cocoa plantations.

Tobago's development was similar to other plantation islands in the Lesser Antilles and quite different from Trinidad's. The smaller island of the pair, Tobago became known first as Tavaco, then Tabagua, then as Tobago. This was the name given by its tribal people who used a long stemmed pipe in which they smoked a herb called Vcohiba, known today as tobacco.

During the colonial period, French, Dutch, and British forces fought over possession of Tobago, and the island changed hands 22 times—more often than any other West Indian island. Tobago was finally ceded to Great Britain in 1814. Trinidad and Tobago were incorporated into a single colony in 1888.

Trinidad became an oil economy in the 20th century. Oil was discovered in the Guayaguayare, Point Fortin, and Forest Reserve areas in Trinidad. Over time oil and oil related exports came to dominate the economy.

The establishment of U.S. bases on the island in 1941 in exchange for 50 destroyers which at the time was sorely needed by an overstretched Britain, resulted in the construction of numerous roads. Additionally, the G.I.s injected American culture and money into a stagnant economy and shifted the focus of the country from Britain to the U.S.

In the 1950s, the British sponsored the West Indies Federation as a potential post-colonial model, in the belief that most of the Caribbean islands would be unable to survive politically or economically on their own. The Caribbean peoples thought otherwise and the Federation collapsed in the early 1960s.

In Trinidad and Tobago a movement was being born in the 1950s. After receiving his Ph.D. and serving as assistant professor at Howard University, Eric Williams returned to Trinidad and Tobago and formed the People's National Movement (PNM), a political party of which he became the leader. In September of 1956, the PNM won the national elections and he became the chief minister of the country from 1956 to 1959, premier from 1959 to 1962, and prime minister from 1962 to 1981. During his term as prime minister, Williams led Trinidad and Tobago into full independence within the Commonwealth in 1962. Eric Williams is considered the father of Trinidad and Tobago. He died in office on March 29, 1981.

After its 1962 independence, Trinidad joined the United Nations and the Commonwealth. In 1967, it became the first Commonwealth country to join the Organization of American States (OAS). A U.S. embassy was established in Port of Spain in 1962, replacing the former consulate general. Today, the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago remains a stable government with close ties and a working relationship to the United States.

Evidence of government stability is represented in the fact that U.S. investment in Trinidad and Tobago exceeds one and one-quarter billion dollars. In addition, Trinidad and Tobago is becoming the leading importer of liquefied natural gas to the U.S. It also is active in the U.S.-initiated Summit of the Americas process and fully supports the establishment of the Free Trade Area of the Americas.

With a population of 1.2 million people and the size of the state of Delaware, Trinidad and Tobago maintains strong relations with its Caribbean neighbors as well. As the most industrialized and second-largest country in the English-speaking Caribbean, Trinidad and To-

bago has taken a leading role in the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM), and strongly supports CARICOM economic integration efforts.

The two countries also share its people and culture. There are large numbers of U.S. citizens and permanent residents of Trinidadian origin living in the United States. These individuals keep strong cultural ties to their country of origin. About 20,000 U.S. citizens visit Trinidad and Tobago on vacation or for business every year, and over 2,700 American citizens are residents. In addition, Trinidad like carnivals are held in numerous cities across the U.S. with a major celebration occurring in Brooklyn every Labor Day of which Trinidadians have played an integral role in sustaining.

The Trinidadian, Jessie Wardell was responsible for obtaining the first street permit to celebrate Carnival outdoors on Lenox Avenue in Harlem. Trinidadian, Rufus Gorin, moved the Carnival to Brooklyn where he paired with the Trinidadian, Carlos Lezama, and formed the West Indian American Day carnival Association (WIADCA), which for over thirty years has participated in attracting millions of people to New York to participate in the largest Carnival celebration in the U.S.

I take great pleasure in reflecting upon the magnitude of Trinidad and Tobago's contribution to New York City, our nation, and the world and expressing my personal appreciation for the association I have had with her people over the years. I salute the republic of Trinidad and Tobago and her accomplishments and ask that you join me in honoring her as she celebrates her 41st Anniversary.

HONORING EDGAR B. "PETE" DOWNS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Edgar B. "Pete" Downs on his 60th birthday and for his dedication to the wine industry of America. Pete will be celebrating his birthday on August 10, 2003.

Pete has been involved in the wine industry for over 30 years. His interest in wine was refined when he studied and received his Bachelor of Science in Fermentation Science at University of California, Davis in 1973. He specialized in enology, the study of wine, and brewing studies. This education led him to becoming a winemaker for several top wineries in California. In 1992, he became the General Manager of Lakeport, Edmeades and Vinwood, three of the wineries in the Kendall-Jackson family. His success with these wineries led to his promotion to be Vice President of Government Affairs of Kendall-Jackson Wine Estates.

Pete's involvement not only with the winery, but with members of the industry on every level has led him to be one of the most successful Vice Presidents of the wine industry in the United States. Pete is a board member of the American Vintners Association, the Family Winemakers of California and a professional member of the American Society for Enology and Viticulture. He is also Chairman of the Congressional Wine Foundation and active in Washington, DC wine efforts.